United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in statement on occasion of Disarmament Week, urges all States to support transition to "post-disarmament world"; will establish inter-departmental task force to provide political, technical and economic advice on changing existing military industries.

+ Security Council scheduled to hold formal meetings on situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, Angola, Mozambique, respectively, and on Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace" report.

+ Chairman of Iraqi Disarmament Commission, Rolf Ekeus, reports "interesting developments" in 45th inspection team's search for more evidence of Iraq's ballistic missile capabilities.

+ United Nations Protection Force brings in demining experts to inspect and render safe Peruca Dam in Croatia; Joint Commission on "Pink Zones" in Croatia holds seventh meeting.

+ Joint talks between leaders of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities in Cyprus to be held at Headquarters tomorrow, 28 October.

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for Western Sahara, Yaqub Khan, to brief Security Council tomorrow, 28 October, on situation in that Territory.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today urged all States to consider methods to alleviate the problems of making the "painful transition to a post-disarmament world". While pledging the assistance of the United Nations in exploring ways of enhancing the disarmament process, he called for decisive actions in transforming military-oriented industrial complexes into enterprises serving social, humanitarian and development needs.

The Secretary-General made the pledge in a statement today on the occasion of Disarmament Week, in which he further said he would establish an inter-departmental task force at the United Nations to provide member States

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with political, technical and economic advice on the various aspects involved in changing existing military industry.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali also said he supported greater Security Council involvement in disarmament matters in particular, the enforcement of non-proliferation. He recalled that the Military Staff Committee, under the United Nations Charter, was mandated to provide assistance to the Council on all questions relating, inter alia, to the regulation of armaments and possible disarmament.

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Following informal consultations yesterday and today, the Security Council was scheduled to hold formal meetings this evening on developments in Nagorno-Karabakh, Mozambique and Angola, respectively, and on the Secretary-General's "Agenda for Peace" report.

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The Chairman of the Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekeus, told correspondents today at Headquarters that the inspection team currently in Iraq had reported some "interesting developments". The team, which is the forty-fifth inspection mission into Iraq, is searching for more evidence of Iraq's ballistic missile capabilities and is the first real test of a promised change in Iraq's attitude. Mr. Ekeus said Iraq now appeared to be quite forthcoming in some important respects.

The team had not found any hidden SCUD missiles, he said, but to be sure, it needed to know for example whether fuel for SCUD missiles existed in Iraq. The Commission was also insisting that Iraq disclose its supplier network, but that, Mr. Ekeus noted, was probably the most jealously-guarded secret in Iraq.

The Commission was looking into the possibility of offering Iraq an incentive to comply with its obligations under Security Council resolution 687 (1991). Mr. Ekeus suggested that if Iraq were to be completely forthcoming about its weapons of mass destruction, the Council might be convinced to lift its restrictions on the sale of Iraqi oil.

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The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) yesterday brought in demining experts from the United Kingdom to inspect and render safe the Peruca Dam in Croatia. According to an UNPROFOR press release, the experts, accompanied by the Force Commander, Lieutenant Commander Satish Nambiar, were at the Dam today.

The UNPROFOR move follows the acknowledgment this past weekend by the Government of Yugoslavia, whose army occupied the area until June, that it was unable to assist in the task. The peacekeeping force took over the dam on 16 September and immediately took steps to reduce the water level in order to

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minimize the danger of the dam bursting. It also brought in international teams of engineers to inspect all aspects of the facility.

While no immediate problems are expected from the rising levels of Peruca Dam, a lower channel through the dam requires preliminary inspection before it can be readied for emergency openings.

In a separate development, the Joint Commission established by the Security Council to oversee the step-by-step restoration of Croatian authority in the "Pink Zones" had its seventh meeting in Topusko on Monday. The Commission, chaired by UNPROFOR and comprised of the Croatian Government representatives, the Serb local authorities in the region and the European Community's Monitoring Mission (ECMM), is scheduled to meet again in Zagreb on 9 November.

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It was announced today that the joint talks with the Secretary-General between the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities would be held tomorrow, 28 October, at Headquarters.

Joint talks were scheduled to have begun on Monday, 26 October, but were cancelled in the course of the day.

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A United Nations official said today that the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Western Sahara, Yaqub Khan, would brief members of the Security Council tomorrow, 28 October, on the situation in that Territory.

Mr. Yaqub Khan consulted this morning with the Secretary-General regarding the possibility of organizing meeting of tribal chiefs, along the lines of meeting held in June 1990. The Secretary-General's report to the Security Council on the matter would most probably be issued towards the end of November, the official said.

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CORRECTION:

First headline in Monday Highlights, 26 October should have read:

+ Joint talks between leaders of the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities to resume today at Headquarters.

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